

EXCOM

9131-85

27 October 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Committee Members

FROM

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SA/DDCI

SUBJECT

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Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting, 21 October 1980 --
Long-Range Planning: Covert Action; FOIA/Privacy Act

1. The Executive Committee met on 21 October 1980 for the first of several sessions on long-range planning issues. Participants included the DCI, DDCI, Messrs. Dirks (DDS&T), Wortman (DDA), Clarke (D/NFAC), Lipton (Compt.), Ware (E/EEO), Stein (ADDO), Hart (ADDA), Hineman (DD/NFAC), Silver (GC), Briggs (IG), (D/Compt.), and appropriate staff and planning group representatives.

2. Mr. Carlucci opened the session, noting it was the first of several aimed at implementing the Committee's May 1980 decision to develop an Agency-wide long-range planning process and asked to make introductory remarks. Mr. made the following key points: This was the first of several sessions for presenting a total of twelve long-range planning issues to the Executive Committee; the issues, which are to focus on the 1985-87 time frame, were developed by twelve interdirectorates teams and written from the point of view of line officers; the planning process is to be separate from the budget process, but the planning decisions will be incorporated into the Comptroller's guidance for the FY 1983 program. He added that the Committee should inject policy issues during the planning discussions and that any resource decisions reached during the review process should be considered tentative until all the papers have been presented. EXCOM overview sessions will then be held to focus on the revised papers and the interrelationships and possible tradeoffs among various options. Final decisions will then be made.

3. Covert Action

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4. In considering covert action from a planning perspective, Mr. Clarke suggested that the Committee should focus on assessing what the international climate of 1985 and beyond might be, determining what covert action capabilities might be needed to satisfy/support policymakers' needs in that climate, and deciding what must be done now to develop those capabilities. Mr. Carlucci also noted the requirement for safeguards to avoid becoming entangled in ill-conceived operations. Mr. Dirks cautioned against assuming that our covert action capabilities could be quickly rejuvenated and expanded. He emphasized that our technical capabilities and equipment have not been adequately maintained because of reductions in R&D funding.

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5. Mr. Carlucci noted that the issue paper did not address the appropriate mix among the three basic categories of covert action. Mr. Stein responded that he and John McMahon regarded their priorities as follows: (1) increase

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6. The DCI stated that the discussion had been helpful in focusing the Committee's attention on such an important issue and made some suggestions for revising the paper for final Committee decisions. He asked the team to provide the following:

- Some analysis of the marginal/relative utility of allocating additional funds to each category of covert action to provide a better sense of where additional resources could result in greater relative benefits.
- The likely requirements for each category in the out years.
- The required lead times for developing the proposed capabilities that will be needed in the mid-eighties, including options for adding more resources or changing existing objectives within existing resources.

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7. Mr. Carlucci summarized by suggesting the following outline for the revised paper for EXCOM review:

- The future need for covert action (include NFAC input).
- The priorities and proper mix among the various categories of covert action.
- The controls required to maintain an appropriate balance between covert action and other Agency programs.
- An improved process for initiating, approving, and monitoring covert action.

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- Developing evaluation techniques that could be systematically applied to ongoing programs.

- Required resources and lead times. ☐

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9. FOIA/Privacy Act/Records Review

Mr. Carlucci congratulated Mr. ☐ and his planning team on their excellent paper on a difficult topic. Reviewing the paper's major findings, Mr. ☐ explained that the work force currently devoted to the systematic classification review of 20-year-old records and to processing FOIA and Privacy Act requests is faced with significant backlogs in its attempts to comply with the legal requirements of Executive Order 12065. (Team projections indicate the Agency may be in compliance by 1988.) Mr. ☐ noted a possible solution to the systematic classification review problem: GAO is expected to recommend to the National Security Council that this requirement be eliminated. Given the continued increase in documents to be reviewed and the low percentage declassified, the Agency could make a good case for at least exempting intelligence records from the review. ☐

10. No such solutions seem in sight in the FOIA/Privacy Act area, however. Discussion centered on possibilities of streamlining the process; diverting some resources from the systematic classification review to FOIA/PA processing; processing simpler requests before more complex ones; maintaining our current strong stance on charging requesters; discouraging nonserious requests but not serious researchers; and taking the appeals mechanism out of OGC and placing it in DDA and DDO. ☐

11. The DCI and DDCI agreed that the Agency should consider a memorandum to the National Security Council pointing out some of the difficulties in complying with E.O. 12065 and possibly requesting an exemption for intelligence records from the systematic review. Mr. Carlucci requested that in revising its paper for final EXCOM decisions, Mr. ☐ team should concentrate on two issue areas: possibilities for reallocating resources from classification review to FOIA/PA; and possibilities for streamlining the processing of FOIA/PA requests. ☐

12. Executive Session

In a brief executive session, the Committee agreed that the General Counsel should attend future Executive Committee meetings in the capacity of Legal Advisor. In response to a request to postpone additional meetings until November because of the press of other business, the Committee felt it was necessary to hold the next two scheduled long-range planning meetings

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(21 and 23 October). They agreed, however, to hold one the following week (29 October) instead of the two currently scheduled. The meeting was adjourned.

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